

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, as follows:

The numerous data collected by the inventors support that the new peptide, of sequence QRFSR (SEQ ID NO: 3), derives from the BPLP protein ("Basic ~~Proline-rich~~ Proline-rich Lacrimal Protein").

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 7 as follows:

More particularly, it is drawn to a peptide that is a maturation product of the Basic ~~Proline-rich~~ Proline-rich Lacrimal Protein (BPLP) or peptide derivative of said maturation product, wherein the peptide or peptide derivatives exhibits an inhibitory property against a metallo-ectopeptidase, especially NEP and/or APN, and more particularly NEP.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12 as follows:

A "maturation product" is a peptide that is obtained through ~~elivage~~ cleavage of the BPLP protein precursor by natural maturases or prohormone converting enzymes, or related mono or paired basic amino acid-cleaving enzymes such as furin, PC convertases or PACE 4 (Seidah, 1995), for example.